

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please add Claims 13-21 and cancel Claims 1-12 as indicated:

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (New) A computer comprising:

a processor:

- a memory having a memory address space, the memory address space comprising a stored program, the stored program including a power-on-self-test (POST);
 - a first input device operatively connected to the processor;
- an adapter read-only-memory (ROM) located in certain blocks of the memory address space;
- a control associated with the POST for preventing an input from the first input device during the POST to prevent user inputs from entering the memory;
- a security signature in the adapter ROM for identifying if the first input device may temporarily accept a user input;
- a ROM security routine for determining if user input is required and further including a test for user authorization;

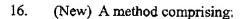
an indicator stored in the memory for permitting a user input during at least a portion of the POST, with the processor responding to the indicator and allowing a user input at the input device during POST by at least temporarily overriding the control preventing a user input during the POST if the user successfully satisfies the authorization test; and

a second input device operatively connected to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port in the computer, wherein the second input device is disabled only if the first input device is prevented from inputting a signal during the POST.

- 14. (New) The computer of claim 13, wherein the first input device is a keyboard communicating with the computer via a dedicated keyboard port.
- 15. (New) The computer of claim 14, wherein the keyboard is a PS/2 keyboard.

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(J)



disabling, via a first mechanism, a dedicated keyboard coupled to a dedicated keyboard port of a computer while a Power-On-Self-Test (POST) is executing in the computer; and

in response to the dedicated keyboard being disabled, disabling, via a second mechanism, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port on the computer.

- 17. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the dedicated keyboard to be re-enabled.
- 18. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the USB port to be re-enabled.

19. (New) A computer comprising:

a first mechanism for disabling a dedicated keyboard coupled to a dedicated keyboard port of the computer; and

a second mechanism for disabling a Universal Serial Bus (USB) compliant keyboard coupled to the computer via a USB port, wherein the USB compliant keyboard is disabled only in response to the dedicated keyboard being disabled.

- 20. (New) The computer of claim 19, further comprising a keyboard sensing switch for monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the dedicated keyboard to be re-enabled.
- 21. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising a keyboard sensing switch for monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the USB port to be re-enabled.

